EDR507 Lori Kandrick

Double-Entry Journal 2-26-09

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini

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| **Part I: Chapters 1-15** | **Strategy Code** | **Quotations and Vocabulary** | **Reaction** |
| C | “There is only one, only one skill a woman like you and me needs in life, and they don’t teach it in school…Only one skill. And it’s this: *tahamul*. Endure.” (p. 18) | Nana seems resigned and bitter about how her life has been, but it must be hard to know that your daughter’s life will not be an easy one. |
| I, MC (text-to-self) | “Over the years, Mariam would have ample occasion to think about how things might have turned out if she had let the driver take her back to the kolba. But she didn’t.” (pp. 33-34) | This statement makes me think that Mariam’s life will take a sudden change in direction. It reminds me of my own life in which I made a sudden change in college by deciding to take education courses. I often think about how different my life would be if I had pursued a job in chemical research. |
| Q | “The next time Mariam signed her name to a document, twenty-seven years later, a mullah would again be present.” (p. 54) | I wonder if this document might be the death certificate of her husband. |
| DI, V | “Only now Mariam saw a basket on the sill. White tuberoses spilled from its sides.” (p. 60) | This is a nice gesture because Mariam’s name means tuberose. I wonder if Rasheed had deliberately chosen the flower. |
| MC (text-to-text) | “Now you know what you’ve given me in this marriage. Bad food, and nothing else.” (p. 104) | This reminds me of *The Other Boelyn Girl* when the king becomes hostile toward Anne once she cannot bear him a son. |
| VSS, MC (text-to-world) | harami:  “Mariam *did* surmise, by the way Nana said the word, that it was an ugly, loathsome thing to be a *harami*, like an insect, like the scurrying cockroaches Nana was always cursing and sweeping out of the *kolba*.” (p.4) | This word means bastard or unwanted. I am reminded of the half-caste children in Australia who have an Australian-aborigine mother and a white father. They were looked upon as a lesser race. |
| VSS | wretched:  “A man’s heart is a wretched, wretched thing, Mariam.” | awful |
| VSS | perversity:  “It was the thought of these intimacies in particular, which she imagined as painful acts of perversity, that filled her with dread and made her break out in a sweat.” (p.49) | of a disgusting or perverse nature |
| VSS | aspirations:  “They made her aware of her own lowliness, her plain looks, her lack of aspirations, her ignorance of so many things.” (p.75) | dreams; ambitions; plans |
| VSS | mewled:  “’What’s the matter?’ he mewled, mimicking her.” (p.103) | to speak in an offensive or mocking manner |
| **Part 2: Chapters 16-26** | VSS | befuddled:  “Ordinary tools befuddled Babi.” (p.109) | confuse; stump |
| VSS | reclusive:  “Laila spotted a car parked up the street, across from the house were the shoemaker, Rasheed, lived with his reclusive wife.” (p.110) | keeping to herself; not going out |
| C, MC (text-to-world) | "She [Khala Rangmaal] said women and men were equal in every way and there was no reason women should cover if men didn't." (p.111) | This goes against my typical picture of an Afghan woman, covered in a burqa.  It is interesting to note that there were very independent and feminist-thinking females. This reminds me of the type of feminism called liberal feminism in which there is the belief that women and men are equal and should be treated as such. |
| DI | "*Marriage can wait, education cannot.  You're a very, very bright girl.  Truly, you are.  You can be anything you want, Laila.  I know this about you.  And I also know that when this war is over, Afghanistan is going to need you as much as its men, maybe even more.  Because a society has no chance of success if its women are uneducated, Laila.  No chance.*" (p.114) | This text is written in italics in the book which makes me think that it has a lot of meaning.  Perhaps when the war is over, Laila will play a large part in the society.  Babi's opinion is also very different than Mariam's dad's opinion about Mariam's future. |
| MC (text-to-text) | "To me, it’s nonsense – and very dangerous nonsense at that – all this talk of I'm Tajik and you're Pashtun and he's Hazara and she's Uzbek.  We're all Afghans and that's all that should matter.”  (p.130) | I am reminded of *The Kite Runner* in which Hassan is a servant just because he's a Hazara and Amir is higher in status just because he's not a Hazara. |
| V | "*She* would never leave her mark on Mammy's heart like the way her brothers had, because Mammy's heart was like a pallid beach where Laila's footprints would forever wash away beneath the waves of sorrow that swelled and crashed, swelled and crashed." (p.144) | Laila wishes she were closer to her mother just like any daughter in any country would. Just like the crashing of the waves that continue on their own, this situation seems like it will continue despite Laila’s wishes. I think this is a great analogy because any progress Laila makes with her mother in their relationship is not lasting. I can really visualize the endless ocean and Laila’s despair over the situation. |
| MC (text-to-text), V | "Babi pointed to rice paddies and barley fields draping the slopes.” (p.148) | I recently read *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell in which there was a lengthy description of working in a rice paddy.  When I read that line in this book, I could instantly picture a rice paddy and was reminded of its description.  Prior to reading *Outliers*, I barely knew anything about rice paddies. |
| C, MC (text-to-world) | "Six months later, in April 1988, Babi came home with big news.  ‘They signed a treaty!’ he said. ‘In Geneva. It's official.’"  (p.153) | I did not know much about the war in Afghanistan before reading this book, so the historical references were helpful.  Now I know that in 1988, the Afghans beat the Soviets in a war. |
| I, DI | "As he'd passed them by, Rasheed had playfully said, ‘If it isn't Laila and Majnoon,’ referring to the star-crossed lovers of Nezami's popular twelfth-century romantic poem – a Farsi version of *Romeo and Juliet*." (p.163) | This comment strikes me as being creepy. I don't think Rasheed means the statement in a lightly teasing manner.  I think it is snide and sarcastic.  I hope Tariq and Laila do not suffer a fate similar to that of Romeo and Juliet. |
| VSS | obliterate:  “"They had overshadowed her in life.  They would obliterate her in death." (p.142) | completely overtake |
| VSS | pallid:  “…because Mammy’s heart was like a pallid beach…” (p. 144) | dull; unable to be permanently marked |
| VSS | shrill:  "She washed the windows, swept the floor, aired the house, took a long bath.  Her voice was shrill with merriment." (p.160) | high-pitched, excited |
| **Part 3: Chapters 27-41** | MC (text-to-self), Q | “She sat on the chair instead, hands limp in her lap, eyes staring at nothing, letting her mind fly on.” (p.210) | What will happen to Laila now? she doesn’t have anywhere to go or any connections left in the world. When Laila heard this devastating news, I tried to imagine a time when I heard bad news. The only think akin that I could conjure was watching the television on September 11th and feeling a sense of disbelief at the images on the screen. |
| C, I, Q | “And suddenly Mariam knew that her suspicions were right. She understood with a dread that was like a blinding whack to the side of her head that what she was witnessing was nothing less than a courtship.” (p.213) | I think Laila will end up staying with Rasheed and Mariam because she doesn’t have anywhere else to go. Rasheed is going to take her on as his second wife. What will Mariam’s reaction to this be? She doesn’t seem pleased with the recognition of his intentions. |
| C, I | “Mariam saw Rasheed enter the yard first. He let the gate go prematurely, and it almost hit the girl on the face.” (p.235) | Mariam doesn’t mention that the gate almost hit Laila on the face. Instead she refers to her as “the girl.” The relationship between Laila and Mariam does not seem to have improved. This also means that Rasheed is not being very nice to Laila at this point. |
| DI, Q | “You try this again and I will find you. I swear on the Prophet’s name that I will find you. And, when I do, there isn’t a court in this godforsaken country that will hold me accountable for what I will do. To Mariam first, then to her, and you last. I’ll make you watch. You understand me? *I’ll make you watch*.” (p.272) | Could life for them possibly get worse? I also wonder about those italicized words. Will this actually happen or is there meaning for those words? |
| VSS, V | tendrils:  “With deliberate, desperate effort, she sent the tendrils of her mind out of this room, out the window, away from this man, over the street outside, over the city now, and its flat-topped houses and bazaars, its maze of narrow streets turned to sand castles.” (p.208) | wisps, pieces;  This passage also allows me to visualize Laila sending her thoughts far away from her physical body. |
| VSS | disingenuous:  “She knew that what she was doing was dishonorable, disingenuous, and shameful.” (p.219) | dishonest; without good intentions |
| VSS | vindication:  “The strange thing was, the girl’s fall from grace ought to have pleased Mariam, brought her a sense of vindication.” (p.239) | revenge; malicious justification |
| VSS | curtly:  “Beneath the burqa, the doctor shook her head curtly.” (p.290) | shortly; without |
| VSS | pragmatic:  “She said this in a pragmatic, almost indifferent, tone, and Mariam understood that this was a woman far past outrage.” (p.291) | practical; matter-of-fact |
| **Part IV: Chapters 42-51** | MC (text-to-world),  MC(text-to-self),  S | “We get mothers like you all the time – all the time – mothers who come here who can’t feed their children because the Taliban won’t let them go out and make a living.” (p.318) | This reminds me of global feminism and the daily struggles that women all over the world face due to cultural issues.  It also reminds me of recently watching the movie *Sicko* in which I was very surprised to hear the horrific stories about healthcare in our country. I am reminded that there is so much in the world that is unbeknownst to me. Reading can help me lessen the gap.  Laila and Mariam would not let Aziza go to the orphanage if there was any other option. Many factors go into this plot point. Rasheed does not favor Aziza. The Taliban limits the rights of freedom. The war has made things tough and difficult to find food. All of these factors combine to send Aziza to the orphanage. |
| MC (text-to-world) | “Kaka Zaman had knitting needles and balls of yarn ready, she said, in case of a Taliban inspection. ‘We put the books away and pretend to knit.’” (p.321) | This reminds me of teaching slaves to read and write in our country in the 19th century. |
| MC (text-to-text), Q | “She turned it so the sharp edge was vertical, and, as she did, it occurred to her that this was the first time that *she* was deciding the course of her own life.” (p.349) | I’m so glad that she is taking a stand. I am worried about how Rasheed will respond when he wakes up, but otherwise he would probably kill both Laila and Mariam. Hopefully this decision will fare better for Mariam than her decision to sleep outside her father’s house earlier in the book. However, this is a huge step for Mariam. Go Mariam! |
| S, MC (text-to-text) | “On the way to Ghazi Stadium, Mariam bounced in the bed of the truck as it skidded around potholes and its wheels spat pebbles.” (p.368) | It is devastating to think that this is how Mariam’s iife will end. It was such a specific set of circumstances that led to this point. Just a few of the circumstances were staying outside her father’s house, not being able to have a child, and having Laila’s parents killed so that she would end up living with her and Rasheed.  Amir also visited Ghazi stadium in *The Kite Runner* or a stadium very similar to it. I hope Mariam does not get stoned to death like the people in that book! It would be such a horrific death to have after a long, hard life. |
| I, V | “The film playing on the screen is Walt Disney’s *Pinocchio*.” (p.404) | Mariam’s dad stills feels remorse about not taking Mariam to the cinema after all those years. I can picture Mariam’s response to this gesture if she had been able to see it. |
| VSS | proprietary:  “Zaman seemed gently proprietary with the orphans.” (p.316) | possessive; having ownership |
| VSS | feign:  “He never bothered to feign a single raspy breath.” (p.320) | pretend; give an appearance of |
| VSS | muezzin:  “But when she woke up, to the muezzin’s call for morning prayer, much of the dullness had lifted.” (p.356) | religious figure of authority or a member of the Taliban mandating prayer |
| VSS | incoherently:  “But she rambled on anyway, incoherently, childishly, about fruit trees that awaited planting and chickens that awaited raising.” (p.358) | without making sense |
| VSS | cantankerous:  “She likes waking up to the sound of Alyona bleating in the morning, and the harmlessly cantankerous cook, Adiba, who works marvels in the kitchen.” (p.377) | gruff; grumpy |